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Written statement* submitted by the Family Health Association of Iran, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[31 January 2018]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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The Health Status of Female Prisoners in Iran

The right to health in the human rights declaration is very important. The right to health is beyond the absence of disease and has various physical, psychological and social dimensions. This right requires equal opportunity for all people to access the facilities, services and provisions to meet the appropriate standards specified in the human rights declaration. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) considers health as part of basic living standards and requires health care along with food, clothing, housing and essential social services as a minimum economic and social provision for individual living standards.

In many societies, attention to health and access to healthcare for vulnerable women, including female prisoners has been neglected they have the lowest levels of access to health services. The Islamic Republic of Iran has made improvements in the health status of female prisoners as one of their priorities and has made many efforts in this regard.

In order to improve the health of this group the Islamic Republic of Iran has opened specialized clinics, triangular clinics and midwifery clinics to reduce harm as well as all specialized medical and para-clinical services, proper nutrition and sports equipment for physical activity is now available to female prisoners for free.

In obstetric and gynaecological clinics, counselling and all reproductive health services are now available; including training, prevention, and treatment in the field of sexually transmitted disease, family planning services, vaccination and treatment of women's disease is carried out. Women even have the right to conjugal visits with their husbands for 24 hours in suitable rooms. Clients are referred to specialized hospitals if they need treatment at the hospital.

Family Health Association of Iran (FHA Iran) has a Memorandum of understanding with the prisons organizations which has benefitted vulnerable women in partnership with the Prisons Organization, in such areas as education, counselling and health services, and harm reduction services, education for sexually transmitted diseases, especially hepatitis C and HIV / AIDS, and empowering women to create jobs, entrepreneurship and income generation.

FHA Iran has always emphasized on the access of female prisoners to health services, health care and counselling, so that this group of vulnerable women, like other groups of women, has the right to health.